

Appl. No. 10/694,263
Reply to Office Action of November 14, 2006

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REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 20 - 22. Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's position, and solely to expedite prosecution, claims 8, 14, 18 and 20 - 22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The limitations of dependent claims 20 - 22 have been incorporated into independent claims 6, 12, and 16, respectively.

In light of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 20 - 22, Applicants submit that independent claims 6, 12, and 16 are now in condition for allowance. Additionally, because dependent claims 7, 9, 13, 15, 17, and 19 incorporate all of the limitations of the respective base claim, Applicants submit that all remaining claims are now in condition for allowance.

Examiner's remaining references cited but not relied upon, considered either alone or in combination, also fail to teach applicant's currently claimed invention.

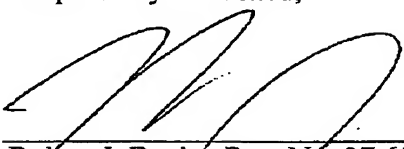
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In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/12/07


Robert J. Depke, Reg. No. 37,607

**ROCKEY, DEPKE, LYONS &
KITZINGER, LLC**

Sears Tower, Suite 5450
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6306

Tel: (312) 277-2006

Attorneys for Applicant